

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

REC'D 19 MAR 2004

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

WIPO PCT

(Rationalised Report according to the Notice of the President of the EPO published in the OJ 11/2001)

Applicant's or agent's file reference  4-32436A	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No.  PCT/EP03/03469	International filing date (day/month/year)  02/04/2003	Priority date (day/month/year)  03/04/2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC  A61K31/00		
Applicant  NOVARTIS AG et al.		

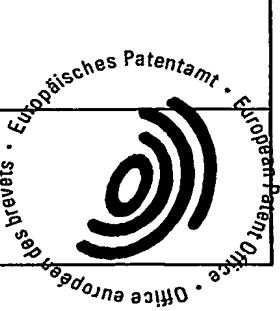
1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 2 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consists of a total of \_\_\_\_\_ sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:
  - I  Basis of the report
  - II  Priority
  - III  Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
  - IV  Lack of unity of invention
  - V  Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
  - VI  Certain documents cited
  - VII  Certain defects in the international application
  - VIII  Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand  06/10/2003	Date of completion of this report  15/03/2004
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**I. Basis of the report**

The basis of this international preliminary examination is the application as originally filed.

**III. Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability**

The question of whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step, or to be industrially applicable has not been the subject of the international preliminary examination in respect of the claims which have not been searched (Article 17(2)(a) or (3) and Rule 66.1(e) PCT; see also international search report).

**V. Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability**

To the extent that the international preliminary examination has been carried out (see item III above), the following is pointed out:

In light of the documents cited in the international search report, it is considered that the invention as defined in at least some of the claims, which have been the subject of an international search report, does not appear to meet the criteria mentioned in Article 33(1) PCT, i.e. does not appear to be novel and/or to involve an inventive step (see international search report, in particular the documents cited X and/or Y and corresponding claim references).